

pioneered the Civil Rights Movement and bridged the gap between emancipation in 1865 and equality in the 1960s. It seems only appropriate to begin with the person who first proposed to commemorate the achievements of former slaves and their descendants: Dr. Carter G. Woodson. A son of former slaves and a man who rose from the coal mines of West Virginia to the summit of academic achievement, Dr. Woodson's story is considered one of the most inspiring and instructive stories in African-American history.

Writer, editor, and lecturer Lerone Bennett tells us his story: "At 17, the young man who was called by history to reveal Black history was an untutored coal miner. At 19, after teaching himself the fundamentals of English and arithmetic, he entered high school and mastered the four-year curriculum in less than two years. At 22, after two-thirds of a year at Berea College [in Kentucky], he returned to the coal mines and studied Latin and Greek between trips to the mine shafts. He then went on to the University of Chicago, where he received a bachelor's and master's degrees, and to Harvard University, where he became the second Black to receive a doctorate in history. The rest is history—Black history."

In 1926, Dr. Woodson founded African-American history month: a time to recognize the enormous contributions of a people of great strength, dignity, faith, and conviction, who strived for the betterment of a nation once lacking in humanity toward them.

So it is in the spirit and vision of Dr. Woodson that I pay tribute to three courageous and inspiring African-Americans who played significant roles in addressing American injustice and inequality.

The contributions of Sojourner Truth and Mrs. Rosa Parks, two women from my State, and the venerable Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., are indelibly etched in the chronicles of the history of this great Nation, and they are also widely viewed with distinction and admiration throughout the world.

Sojourner Truth, though unable to read or write, was considered one of the most eloquent and noted spokespersons of her day on the inhumanity and immorality of slavery. She was a leader in the abolitionist movement and a groundbreaking speaker on behalf of equality for women. Michigan honored her with the dedication of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Monument, which was unveiled in Battle Creek, MI, on September 25, 1999.

Truth lived in Washington, DC, for several years, helping slaves who had fled from the South and appearing at women's suffrage gatherings. She returned to Battle Creek in 1875 and remained there until her death in 1883. Sojourner Truth spoke from her heart about the most troubling issues of her time. A testament to Truth's convictions is that her words continue to speak to us today.

On May 4, 1999, legislation was enacted authorizing the President of the

United States to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late Mrs. Rosa Parks. I was pleased to coauthor this fitting tribute to Mrs. Parks, the gentle warrior who decided that she would no longer tolerate the humiliation and demoralization of racial segregation on a bus. Her personal bravery and self-sacrifice are remembered with reverence and respect by us all.

Fifty-one years ago, in Montgomery, AL, the modern civil rights movement began when Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. The strength and spirit of this courageous woman captured the consciousness of not only the American people but the entire world. The boycott that Mrs. Parks initiated was the beginning of an American revolution that elevated the status of African-Americans nationwide and introduced to the world a young leader who would one day have a national holiday declared in his honor, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Perhaps more than any other single person, it was Dr. King—with his visionary leadership and inspiring rhetorical skills—who can be considered the driving force behind the 1960s civil rights movement.

Mr. President, we have come a long way toward achieving justice and equality for all. We still however have work to do. In the names of Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Carter G. Woodson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others, let us rededicate ourselves to continuing the struggle for human rights.

I am happy to join with my colleague, Senator BARACK OBAMA, in commemorating Juneteenth Independence Day with the submission of S. Con. Res. 42. This resolution recognizes the end of slavery and reminds us to never forget even the worst aspects of our Nation's history.

NOMINATION OF JEROME HOLMES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that four letters written in support of the nomination of Jerome Holmes to the Tenth Circuit be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING,
Oklahoma City, OK, June 19, 2006.

Re recommendation of Jerome A. Holmes,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SPECTER: As Governor of the State of Oklahoma, and as a former Chair of the State Senate Judiciary Committee, I have had a lot of experience in the selection of judges. In our modified Missouri system of appointment of judges, the Governor plays a key role when judicial vacancies occur. Not only does the Governor appoint members to the Judicial Nominating Commission, but he or she also is forwarded the final three names of judicial applicants

for gubernatorial selection. I take this responsibility very seriously, and I have personally interviewed every single candidate forwarded to me.

I have come to know and respect Mr. Jerome Holmes, a nominee for the Tenth Circuit vacancy created by the retirement of my friend, Judge Stephanie Seymour. Jerome is a highly qualified candidate, a superb lawyer with a reputation for fairness, ethics and integrity. Indeed, I recently appointed his former supervisor, Judge Arlene Johnson, to our court of last resort on criminal matters, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. When Arlene was Chief of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's office in the Western District of Oklahoma, Jerome was her chief deputy. Their division was considered a model division of the U.S. Attorney's office. Jerome handled this difficult task with competence and honor, and he was part of the prosecution team that brought charges against the perpetrators of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing.

I have also come to know Jerome on a personal basis through the Oklahoma Symposium, a sort of "think tank" gathering of top Oklahomans that meets formally once a year, and informally in small groups from time to time. It is an honor to be invited to join the Symposium, and Jerome was among the first to be invited for membership.

Jerome is uniquely qualified for this position. He served as a law clerk for Federal District Judge Wayne Alley and then for the then-Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, the honorable Judge William Holloway. Jerome then practiced for several years in civil litigation before devoting himself for eleven years to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oklahoma City. For several months, he has been practicing at Crowe & Dunlevy, one of the largest and most respected law firms in Oklahoma. In short, I do not think you could have a candidate more highly qualified and regarded than Jerome Holmes.

I hope you will see fit to appoint this remarkably talented young man to this important position. I know of the Tenth Circuit, as well, because my cousin, Judge Robert Henry, will become the Chief Judge of that Circuit in 2008. I know he shares my high regard for Jerome, as he has told me of Jerome's excellent professional appearances before that court.

I continue, Senator, to appreciate the very important work that you do. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of service, or, of course, if you should come to Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

BRAD HENRY,
Governor.

RYAN, WHALEY & COLDIRON,
Oklahoma City, OK, June 21, 2006.

Re nomination of Jerome A. Holmes to the Tenth Circuit.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SPECTER AND SENATOR LEAHY: I am writing in support of the nomination of Jerome A. Holmes for the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

I am a lifelong Democrat. For six years I was fortunate to work on the United States Senate staff of Senator David Boren and the Senate Agriculture Committee. During this time I met Senator Leahy and personally witnessed his leadership as a committee chairman. I was the Democratic nominee for

an Oklahoma congressional race in 1994. I later became a federal prosecutor and eventually served as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma, first through appointment by Attorney General Janet Reno and then through nomination by President Clinton.

I have known Jerome Holmes for over ten years through our work together in the United States Attorney's Office and now in private practice. I believe his intellect, experience and character make him an excellent choice for a position on the appellate court. I saw these qualities firsthand as Jerome carried out his many responsibilities as a prosecutor. One of the most important duties he performed was that of the office's legal ethics and professional responsibility counselor. Jerome acted ably in this capacity during a time of heightened scrutiny for federal prosecutors following the passage of the Hyde Act and the McDade Amendment. Since both of you are former prosecutors, I trust that you can appreciate the degree of confidence in Jerome's abilities and integrity that were required in order to be given such an assignment by me and other United States Attorneys.

Jerome's nomination has apparently triggered concern from groups that have focused on his writings on affirmative action. In this regard, I can offer three observations. First, I have known Jerome to be open-minded and respectful of different views. More importantly, I know Jerome to be respectful of the role of the courts, as opposed to the role of the advocates, and I believe this understanding to be partly the result of his three years of service as a law clerk for federal appellate and district judges. Finally, as noted above, I know Jerome to be a person of unwavering integrity. Therefore, when Jerome states under oath that he will put his personal views aside and follow the law, I believe he will do just that.

I hope these observations are helpful as you consider Jerome's nomination, which I hope you will act upon favorably. I respectfully request that this letter be made part of the committee record regarding his nomination. If I can be further assistance or if you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

DANIEL G. WEBBER, Jr.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK,
June 21, 2006.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS SPECTER AND LEAHY: I am writing in reference to the nomination of the Honorable Mr. Jerome A. Holmes, Esq.'s judicial appointment. I appreciate the concern that has been expressed about his nomination based upon his writings and positions on affirmative action. In all honesty I stand in a position that is contrary to the interpreted and most likely actual personal stance of Mr. Holmes, yet my relationship with him moved me to write and to express my support for him.

I have known Mr. Holmes for many years and believe that he does have a high regard for the views of those who maybe different from his own. That in and of itself is enough for me to believe that he would "hear" fairly. In addition, Mr. Holmes has displayed a level of integrity in all his dealings that I have been aware and has shown in our personal conversation willingness to listen and respect differing views. I trust Mr. Holmes and so in light of our differences I support his nomination.

I do realize the responsibility that is upon me as a Pastor, Community Leader and a concerned citizen. This is no light matter for me, indeed it is with much prayer and struggle that I searched out the right words to convey the right tone to reinforce my message. As a member of the NAACP, Urban League and many other organizations that fight for the rights of minorities, I am moved to ask your continued approval of this nomination.

Sincerely,

GEORGE E. YOUNG, Sr.,
Pastor, Holy Temple Baptist Church.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY DISTRICT ONE,
Oklahoma City, OK.

Re nomination of Jerome Holmes, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER, *Chairman*,
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY, *Ranking Member*,
U.S. Senate, Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR DISTINGUISHED SENATORS: It is truly an honor to offer this Letter of Recommendation for your consideration on behalf of Jerome Holmes, a nominee for the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

I have known Jerome Holmes for several years, both professionally and personally, as I am also a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association. I know him to be a person of Integrity and Character and I have always appreciated Mr. Holmes' fairness in our dealings. What's more, I have witnessed Mr. Holmes' efforts in our local community to improve the lives of those around us; all people regardless of where they live, what they look like or how much money they have. He has an altruistic spirit that makes him a standout in this world.

I serve Oklahoma County as one of three elected County Commissioners, am a proud Democrat and consider Jerome Holmes to be a principled leader who demonstrates mutual respect for all people. In particular, he is respectful of views that differ from his own and he enjoys tremendous bipartisan support and respect.

If I can provide any further information or perspective, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,

JIM ROTH,
County Commissioner.

SAFE AND TIMELY PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN ACT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Safe and Timely Placement of Children Act was passed during the wrap-up session on Friday, June 23, 2006. I have worked with Senators DEWINE and DOMENICI on this issue for several years to help foster children to be placed with adoptive parents or family across State lines.

Currently it can take twice or three times as long for a child to be placed in a home, if that home happens to be in another State. This is sad, and it needs to be fixed.

The House bill, identical to our Senate legislation, will help fix this process and help these children. It provides a mix of incentives and timeframes for States to achieve the safe and timely placement of children between States.

This legislation was part of the WE CARE Kids Act, and it should help to deliver on the promises made in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 which stated that geographic barriers

should not delay or deny adoptions. When a child leaves foster care and goes out of State, half of the time the child is being adopted and gaining a permanent home. In about 20 percent of the cases, a child is being placed with a relative. These are good, permanent options for children, and it should not take twice as long to achieve such a placement.

In my view, this complements and builds upon actions by many States to update the 1960 Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children. The purpose of this legislation is to add specific timeframes and to provide Federal incentives to achieve the goal set in 1997 of reducing and eliminating geographic barriers.

As technology has vastly improved and more families seek to open their hearts and homes to children in foster care, we need improved regulations and policies to serve such families. This legislation is part of the DeWine-Rockefeller bill, called the We Care Kids Act. Thanks to the leadership of Chairman GRASSLEY, the major provisions of We Care Kids Act were included in the reconciliation package to invest in court training and data to help judges have insight and the information needed to care for the vulnerable children in foster care. But action could not be taken to improve interstate case planning within the reconciliation bill. In 2004, similar legislation passed the House of Representatives, and now it will finally become law. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. RUCH

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor LTC Robert J. Ruch, District Commander, Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the occasion of his Change of Command Ceremony which will take place on Friday, July 10, 2006. At that time, Lieutenant Colonel Ruch will pass command of the Philadelphia District to LTC Gwen E. Baker after providing the State of Delaware and the region with 2 years of honorable and meritorious service in carrying out his duties.

As the 53rd Philadelphia District Engineer, LTC Robert J. Ruch has commanded a 500-person engineering organization since 2004 that provides national, economic, and environmental security in the heart of the Northeast Corridor. His responsibilities have included dredging waterways for navigation, protecting communities from flooding and coastal storms, responding to natural and declared disasters, regulating construction in the Nation's waters and wetlands, remediation of environmental hazards, restoring ecosystems, building facilities for the Army and Air Force, and providing engineering, contracting and project management services for other government agencies upon request.